

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 36-39, 48-68, and 85-87 are pending. Claim 39 is the only independent claim. In this response, claims 31-32, 35, 46-47, and 88 are canceled without prejudice and/or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Claims 36-38, 45, 48-68, and 85-87 are currently amended.

Claims 31-32, 46-47, 53, and 61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a or e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,219,577 to Brown III, et al. Claims 31 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,236,413 to Feiring. Claims 35-38, 64-68, and 85-88 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,304,121 to Sahatjian. Claim 45 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brown '577 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,450,989 to Dubrul et al. Claims 48-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brown '577 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,527,282 to Segal. Claims 50-52, 54-58, and 62-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brown '577 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,280,411 to Lennox, U.S. Patent No. 6,369,039 to Palasis et al., or U.S. Patent No. 6,638,246 to Naimark et al. Claims 59-60 and 80-81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brown '577 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,985,307 to Hanson et al.

Claim 39 is allowed.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

II. Pending Claims and Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claim 39 is allowed. Accordingly, following the foregoing amendments, claim 39 is the only remaining independent claim. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 39 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited references.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments which may be incurred in connection with this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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